

Remarks:

Claims 1-15 are presented for Examiner Webb's consideration.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

By way of the Office Action mailed May 21, 2003, the Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because the drawings included reference signs that were not specifically designated in the textual description. The Examiner requested that such error be corrected. In accordance with the Examiner's request, the numerical references have been added to the appropriate textual reference, which was supported by the description text at the time of filing. In particular, the sample and bench liner were identified in the text description. In particular, the term sample was originally described in the amended paragraph itself. The mention of a bench liner was described in the description of materials on page 8. It is submitted that such amendment is fully supported by the description and no new subject matter has been added.

By way of the same Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-10 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner requested language clarification for claims 1 and 15. Such clarification has been provided through this amendment to claims 1 and 15. Support for such amendments may be found in the description at least at page 3, lines 13-16.

The Examiner asserted that it is not clear what the phrase "fully debonded pulp" means, given the addition of binder. The Examiner's attention is directed to page 14, lines 18-23 for a full description of the various pulps contemplated and the source of such pulps. Such described pulp is then mixed with binder, as described in the Application text. See in this regard, the examples 4-9 on page 16 and text at page 13, lines 16-25. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claim is definite. Further, as can be readily seen from the enclosed internet search, one reviewing the public records for a description of such pulp can easily find one.

By way of the same Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang (5,525,407). This rejection is respectfully **traversed** to the extent that it may apply to the currently presented claims for the following reasons.

As the Examiner noted, the Yang reference discloses a multiple layered structure, and in particular a layered structure including a transfer layer, a receiving layer, a wicking layer and a storage layer. The patent discloses that the arrangement is an integral structure including at least three

integrated regions. The Yang reference describes the use of a storage layer as well. The Examiner indicated that she considers for the purposes of her rejection Yang's receiving layer to be Applicant's upper layer, and Yang's wicking layer to be Applicants lower layer (effectively separating out two of Yang's layers), even though the Yang reference describes such material as an integral material. The Yang reference also indicates that the weight distribution between the receiving layer and the wicking layer can decrease as seen in the Table in Col. 6. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's separation of layers is not suggested by the reference itself, and therefore the reference would not appropriately serve as a basis for an obviousness rejection. Furthermore, the current application is directed to a separate absorbent composite located between a backsheet and a topsheet wherein the basis weight of the currently claimed absorbent composite increases from top to bottom layers. Additionally, as currently claimed, Applicants' composite absorbent material includes two different pulps in the layers. It is respectfully submitted that such construction is neither taught or suggested by the Yang reference. Support for such amendment may be found at least in the Examples on page 16.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn. For at least the reasons described above, Applicants assert that the dependent claims are also non-obvious and the rejections should be withdrawn.

A Petition for a Two Month Extension of Time has been filed contemporaneously with this action, extending the time to respond to October 21, 2003. For the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the currently presented claims are in form for allowance. However, should the Examiner feel that issues remain unresolved, she is encouraged to call the undersigned at (770) 587-8646.

Please charge any prosecutorial fees which are due to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875.

Respectfully submitted,

C.W. COLMAN ET AL.

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Attorney for Applicant(s)

Pulp > Products and Services > Fluff/Absorbent

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Products and Services

Fluff/Absorbent

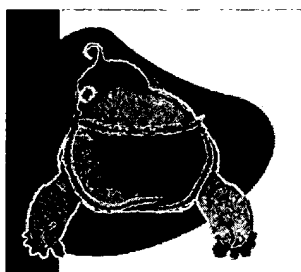
PULP

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Fluff pulp is usually produced in roll form and shipped to manufacturers of sanitary disposable products, who then disintegrate the thick pulp sheets into individual fibers to give their products bulk, softness, and high absorbency.

Weyerhaeuser's superior fluff pulp results in superior products:

- Absorbent pads made from consistently uniform fiber deliver superior absorption and holding of liquids.
- A thinner, flexible pad with excellent liquid management capability.
- Excellent defibration at low energy with minimal impact on wicking.
- Pad pH that will retard bacterial growth and reduce odor.



Did you know there is pulp in paper diapers?

After inventing the disposable diaper in 1946, Marion Donovan journeyed throughout the US and was ridiculed for proposing an "unnecessary and impractical" item to replace cotton diapers.

Ten years later, a clever entrepreneur had the foresight to capitalize on it and make the first commercially available disposable diaper.

- Increased absorption and retention of SAP in absorbent pad.
- Excellent pad formulation, superior wicking, low static coupled with low defibration energies.
- Exceptional acquisition and fluid movement capability via a composite structure.
- Structures with extremely high bulk for outstanding liquid transfer and holding.

Untreated Fluff Pulp

This category of pulp is used primarily in absorbent product applications, such as baby diapers, feminine hygiene and bedpads. This product is for use in higher-powered fiberization equipment and provides the maximum in absorbency, wicking and distribution of liquid. These grades are usually made of southern softwood fibers and are sold in roll form.

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Click a mill name to see details about a Weyerhaeuser pulp mill.

Grade	Description	Mill
CF416	Southern fiber exhibiting excellent absorbency, wicking and fluff pad integrity.	Columbus
FR416	Southern fiber exhibiting excellent absorbency, wicking and fluff pad integrity.	Flint River
NB416	Southern fiber exhibiting excellent absorbency, wicking and fluff pad integrity. Also used in low viscosity ethers end uses.	New Bern
PL416	Southern fiber exhibiting excellent absorbency, wicking and fluff pad integrity.	Plymouth

Treated Fluff Pulp

Treated fluff pulp is used in the same applications as untreated. It includes a debonding agent, which enhances fiberization; thus this grade is often used on machinery where low energy use in fiberization is critical. This product is sold in roll form.

Click a mill name to see details about a Weyerhaeuser pulp mill.

Grade	Description	Mill
CF405	Fluff pulp chemically treated to fiberize easily and to yield a soft, fully fiberized web.	Columbus
NF405	A kraft pulp that is bleached without elemental chlorine. It is chemically treated to fiberize easily and yield a soft, fully fiberized web.	New Bern

MSDS:

Click here for the Bleached Kraft Pulp Material Safety Data Sheet (PDF). To view and print the PDF, you will need the free Adobe® Acrobat® Reader® software available here.

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Mill Information New Bern

PULP

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Weyerhaeuser Advantage

Mill Information

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- Hawesville
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- New Bern
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Weyerhaeuser's New Bern, North Carolina mill is very serious in its commitment to being a quality leader. We strive to assess a customer's needs, modifying our product to meet those needs or monitoring data for future product development. We pride ourselves on being proactive and working with our customers to find innovative solutions.

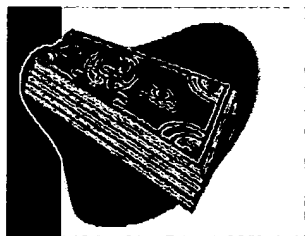
New Bern was among the first pulp mills in the nation to use an oxygen bleaching system, eliminating the need for bleaching with elemental chlorine. This has been followed by an upgrade to reduce the amount of water used by the mill, thus reducing effluents by almost half and decreasing odiferous gases.

New Bern is also recognized for its leading edge research and development. We are quick to try new concepts, both from our own and our customers' research and development efforts. This is true of our specialty cross-link fiber plant producing a broad range of custom specialty fibers for absorbent and special paper applications.

Grades:

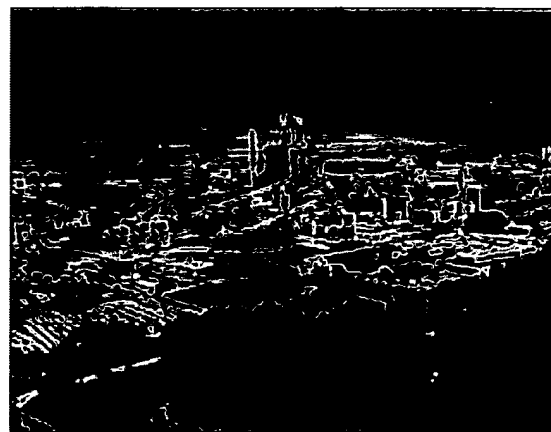
NF405: A kraft pulp that is bleached without elemental chlorine. It is chemically treated to fiberize easily and yield a soft, fully fiberized web.

NB416: A kraft fluff pulp specially designed to enhance absorbency, SAP retention and pad integrity while providing softness and ease of densification.



Did you know there is pulp in paper money?

The first paper notes printed in the United States were in denominations of 1 cent, 5 cents, 25 cents, and 50 cents. The U.S. Department of the Treasury first issued paper U.S. currency in 1862 to make up for the shortage of coins and to finance the U.S.



of costs and to finance the U.S. Civil War. The paper used in money is a highly secret formulation, so don't bother trying to duplicate in your basement.

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Location and Products:

North Carolina, USA
Fluff pulps, specialty cross linked pulps
Bleached sulphate market pulp
330,000 ADMT annually

ISO Information:

Quality System ISO 9002-1994 Registered
Date of Original Registration: April 1, 1992
Date of Current Registration: May 4, 2001
Scope of Registration: Manufacturer of roll pulp and HBA products.

MSDS:

Click here for the Bleached Kraft Pulp Material Safety Data Sheet. To view and print the MSDS, you will need the free Adobe® Acrobat® Reader® software available here.

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